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ECBC-TR-412

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM:
PROTECTION FACTOR TESTING OF THE SE-SHIELD SUIT
WITH THE SE400 POWERED AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATOR (PAPR)

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ENGINEERING DIRECTORATE

October 2004

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Executive Summary

As part of the Domestic Preparedness Program, one Occupational Safety and Health Level B suit design was tested to assess its capability to protect in a chemical agent or biological agent environment. The suit design was tested for its protection factor (PF) in an aerosol environment (aerosolized corn oil, which may be representative of a chemical or biological agent, was used). Protection factor is defined as the ratio between the challenge concentration outside the suit and the measured concentration inside the suit. The tests are described, and the overall protection factors are presented.

PREFACE

This work described in this report was authorized under Expert Assistance (Equipment Test) Program for the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Homeland Defense Business Unit. The work was started and completed in December 2002.

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DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM: PROTECTION FACTOR TESTING OF THE SE-SHIELD SUIT WITH THE SE400 POWERED AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATOR (PAPR)

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1996, Congress passed Public Law 104-201 (Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 1996), directing the Department of Defense (DoD) to assist other federal, state, and local agencies in enhancing preparedness for terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction. The DoD responded by forming the Domestic Preparedness Program that same year. One of the objectives of the Domestic Preparedness Program is to enhance federal, state and local emergency and hazardous material (HAZMAT) response to nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) terrorism incidents. As part of an effective response, emergency and HAZMAT personnel who are responding to an incident will use personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect them from exposure to chemical agents or biological agents.

2. OBJECTIVE

This study evaluated the performance of the SE-Shield suit [Safety Equipment America (SEA) Inc., Branford, CT, http://www.sea.com.au/] in a corn oil challenge aerosol. The SE-SHIELD Level B suit is a chemically impermeable suit specially made for use with the SE400 Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR). When used, the SE400 PAPR is equipped with a valve providing maximum 30 liter of air per minute into the suit to maintain positive pressure in the suit and compensate for possible suit leakage. Corn oil was used to simulate biological or chemical particulates from 0.4 to 0.6 µm in diameter (typical military standard for the possible threat). This information is intended to evaluate the suit for its possible applications in the federal, state, and local emergency and HAZMAT areas. This is especially important if these personnel choose to include military chemical agent protection as a criterion for purchase.

3. TESTING

3.1 <u>Test Facilities and Equipment.</u>

Testing occurred at the Protection Factor Test Facility, an ISO 17025 compliant facility, in Building E5604, at Aberdeen Proving Ground – Edgewood Area, Edgewood, MD 21010, on Saturday, December 7, 2002. A challenge aerosol concentration of $20-40~\text{mg/m}^3$, polydispersed corn oil aerosol having a mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) of 0.4 to 0.6 µm (the Army Standard) was generated in a $10\text{-ft} \times 20\text{-ft} \times 32\text{-ft}$ test chamber. The test chamber challenge aerosol was generated by atomizing liquid corn oil at room temperature using a Laskin nozzle. The Laskin nozzle produced a coarse aerosol cloud, which was directed into an impaction plate to remove the larger particles and yield an aerosol in the desired size range. The concentrated aerosol from the generator was diluted with filtered ambient air to control the challenge aerosol concentration in the exposure chamber.

A 6-decade, 45° off-axis light-scattering laser photometer, sampling at a flow rate of 1-2 L/min, was used to quantify concentration of the challenge and the in-suit corn oil aerosols. For a given particle size, the quantity of scattered light is proportional to the aerosol concentration. The photometer converted the quantity of scattered light to a voltage, which was then digitized and recorded by a microcomputer.

3.2 <u>Preparation of Test Items.</u>

A total of eight SE-SHIELD suits were available for testing and all were prepared for the test. All suits were tested in the as-received condition so effects of aging, laundering, and temperature extremes is out of the scope of this test. The suits were probed in both the left neck region and the upper left arm region. Both sample lines were then connected by a 'Y' connection, which then was attached to a photometer once the volunteer was inside the chamber (Figure 1).

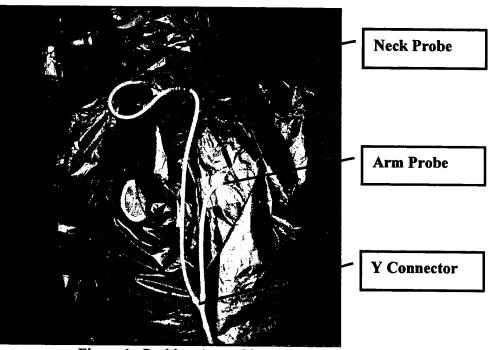


Figure 1. Probing Assembly

An SE400 PAPR was used in conjunction with the suit (Figure 2). The hoses on the PAPRs were replaced with new hoses, which contain a valve to dump a portion of air into the suit with the rest going into the facepiece. Also, the day prior to testing, all batteries for the PAPRs were discharged and then completely recharged so as to have a full charge for the test day. The SEA facepieces were a one-size-fits-all and no modifications were made to them for the test.

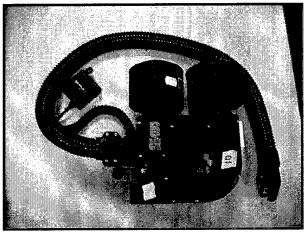


Figure 2. SE400 PAPR

3.3 Test Procedure.

On test day, 30 military volunteers entered the facility and from each some anthropometric data were taken, including face length and width, height, waist, inseam and chest. Of the 30 volunteers, 16 were chosen to be in the test. These volunteers best fit the suit and the full facepiece due to the manufacturers size specifications. Their measurements can be found in Appendix A. ECBC personnel then oriented the volunteers by explaining the test, and each volunteer was asked to sign an informed consent agreement.

The first eight volunteers were then instructed to prepare for the test. They changed out of their clothes and into coveralls, removing their boots as well. ECBC and SEA personnel dressed each subject into the suit and PAPR. The subjects wore a pair of boots outside of the suit, but no outer gloves were worn. The boots were worn to prevent the tearing of the suit while walking. Donning procedures for the suit included duct taping the seam in the front and along side of the head. Once all suits were correctly donned, the PAPRs were turned on and each was checked with a flow meter to ensure it was producing the correct amount of airflow.

The ECBC personnel then led the eight volunteers into the chamber and attached their sample tubes to the photometer, the latter was located outside of the chamber in the control room. Personnel from within the control room communicated to the volunteers to begin the test, consisting of the following exercises:

Part A (1 min each)

- 1. Normal Breathing
- 2. Bend Forward and Touch Toes
- 3. Jog in Place
- 4. Raise Arms Above Head and Look Upward
- 5. Bend Knees and Squat
- 6. Crawl on Hands and Knees
- 7. Stand, Fold Arms in Front of Chest and Twist Torso
- 8. Normal Breathing

Part B (4 min each)

- 1. Climb Step Ladder
- 2. Move Boxes from Floor to Table
- 3. Rest
- 4. Roll Walls and Ceiling
- 5. Bag Clothes
- 6. Rest
- 7. Loosen Bolts
- 8. Move Boxes from Floor to Table

The ECBC personnel in the control room communicated each exercise to the volunteers. Once the volunteers completed one complete trial (parts A and B), they exited the chamber and took a few minutes rest. They then reentered the chamber for a second trial. The trials (1A, 1B, 2A or 2B) and exercises (1-8) correspond to trial numbers and exercise numbers in the data listed in Appendix B. View Figures 3 and 4 for images of the volunteers performing the exercises.

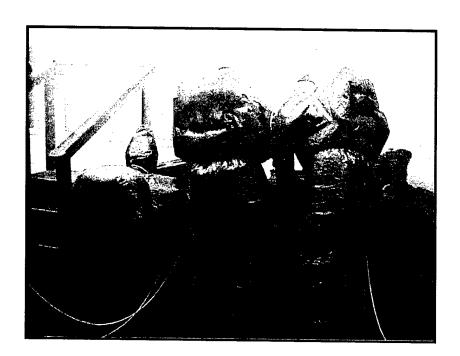


Figure 3. Volunteers Performing 'Loosen Bolts' Exercise

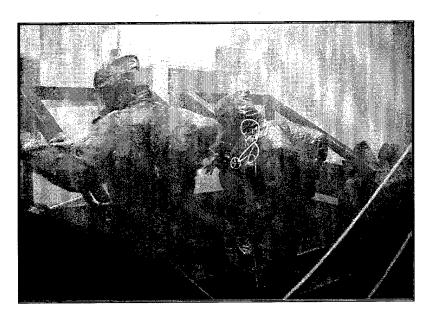


Figure 4. Volunteers Performing 'Climb Step Ladder' Exercise

Once the first group of eight volunteers completed two trials the second group prepared to enter the chamber. The second group performed the same procedures as the first group. With 16 volunteers each doing two trials, there was a possibility of 32 results for each exercise.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

Suit performance was quantified in terms of a protection factor (PF). The PF was calculated by determining the ratio of the challenge aerosol concentration to the in-suit aerosol concentration as quantified by integrating the peak voltage output from the photometer over a time interval. A PF was calculated for each individual exercise (PF_i):

$$PF_i = \frac{ChallengeConcentration}{In - SuitConcentration}$$

The PF_i's for a trial were then used to calculate an overall PF for a volunteer (PF₀) as follows:

$$PF_o = n \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{PF_i} \right)^{-1}$$

where n is the number of exercises. The PF₀ is affected most by the smallest PF_i. Under the conditions of this test and the sensitivity of the photometer, the maximum PF that can be reported is 100,000. In Appendix B, the PF_i is listed under each exercise and the PF₀ is listed under Average Fit (AVEFIT).

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The test data are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. The first column lists PF ranges. The second column is the number of test trials falling within each PF range. The second column is the number of test trials falling within each calculated PF range. The third column presents the cumulative-percentage of test trials that resulted in a PF below the upper limit of the range and the fourth column presents the percentage of trials that exceed the lower limit of the range shown.

Table 1. Protection Factor Results from Part A Exercises

PF	Frequency	Cumulative %	Pass %
0	0	0.00	100.00
0-10	0	0.00	100.00
10-20	0	0.00	100.00
20-50	0	0.00	100.00
50-100	0	0.00	100.00
100-500	1	3.33	96.67
500-1000	3	13.33	86.67
1000-1667	2	20.00	80.00
1667-2000	2	26.67	73.33
2000-6667	21	96.67	3.33
6667-10000	1	100.00	0.00

Table 2. Protection Factor Results from Part B Exercises

PF	Frequency	Cumulative %	Pass %
0	0	0.00	100.00
0-10	0	0.00	100.00
10-20	0	0.00	100.00
20-50	0	0.00	100.00
50-100	0	0.00	100.00
100-500	2	7.69	92.31
500-1000	8	38.46	61.54
1000-1667	1	42.31	57.69
1667-2000	1	46.15	53.85
2000-6667	11	88.46	11.54
6667-10000	3	100.00	0.00

The suit achieved 100% passing at a PF of 100 for both parts A and B. The results from Part A are slightly better than Part B because it is a shorter amount of exercises, while Part B is much longer and the subjects have a larger chance of breaking a seal. The results from the "Roll walls and ceiling" exercise are much lower than the average fit value. This exercise in particular is one, which creates a leak in this particular suit. One may notice that the

total frequencies do not add up to 32 total trials. This is because some data had to be removed due to human error. Data skewed by human error does not accurately portray the performance of the suit. This data is not included in Appendix B.

6. CONCLUSION

The SE –SHIELD Suit with the SE 400 PAPR performed very well as compared to historical data of other commercially available negative pressure Level B suits. Historical testing of OSHA Level B suits have given results of a PF of 2 through 10, protecting the wearer from liquid CW agents but only providing minimum protection from a vapor or aerosol threat. By pressurizing the SE SHILED suit, PF values have increased, protecting the wearer from liquid CW agents as well as providing protection from a vapor or aerosol threat. Reports detailing findings of other Level B suit performance can be found at the Homeland Defense website: http://hld.sbccom.army.mil/ip/reports.htm#suits.

APPENDIX A

ANTHROPOMETRIC DATA

	F	ace				
Subject	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (in.)	Waist (in.)	Chest (in.)	Inseam (in.)
1	123	147	71	39	42	30
2	130	149	72	37	40	32
3	131	137	70	33	35	31
4	131	140	70	29	36	32
5	122	134	67	28	34	30
6	124	127	71	31	35	30
7	126	141	69	32	38	30
8	130	144	71	39	43	32
9	128	126	67	31	35	32
10	122	130	70	30	34.5	32
11	118	134	71	31	37	33
12	119	139	68	36	38.5	34
13	130	134	70	38.5	45	32
14	125	136	67	33	36	34
15	129	143	70	38	42.5	32
16	119	140	67	33	38	30

APPENDIX B PROTECTION FACTOR DATA

Detailed Data from Part A Testing

Г	_	Т	_	T		Г	_	Γ-	1	Τ	_	Т	_		i	T -	T .	1	Τ_	_		_		г—		т—	_	_	_		_
	∞	5224	8953	4246	1934	2105	2440	3499	6727	3542	3183	2149	5243	9266	4459	4634	8198	7763	18720	5279	7643	5845	5855	8613	7972	3116	5177	5413	17295	5342	6020
	7	2345	5371	3147	823	1646	357	5869	3341	2701	2782	1637	5260	5835	714	3513	9512	5970	12410	1907	6491	4121	5183	8002	10811	2804	5331	2786	9139	4819	5671
	9	1664	2811	2121	4470	1869	227	1951	2844	3383	3346	1825	5276	3931	895	3558	7358	5012	11754	1563	5521	3215	4517	5764	9119	3257	5628	3259	8278	2777	4556
Factor)	S	1602	2291	1895	2139	1049	100	1670	1680	3752	3252	1557	4029	3807	1048	2057	3528	2052	1205	2166	5911	3029	2513	2405	5790	1927	5125	1869	5341	2851	4135
otection	4	1522	2027	1384	1271	558	429	1097	1133	1833	1273	1164	2629	2251	1380	1503	1653	3169	5171	1264	1085	1930	1427	689	6581	1179	4326	627	2414	1733	2965
Exercise (Protection Factor	3	2121	1746	2397	006	1147	554	1872	2148	2022	2128	360	3599	3500	2542	1872	3306	3002	10002	1325	4190	2518	3391	1391	7328	2274	5257	2095	5075	3432	4786
Exc	7	1915	2612	2986	140	2073	155	4161	1164	2004	1509	150	4534	5140	2856	2129	2265	5153	21129	117	3148	2316	5205	868	9286	2241	6270	976	9279	2818	9354
	1	11132	8976	7543	10513	8908	3375	10756	7738	5485	5904	4671	6254 .	12903	24199	9286	10488	10943	28865	12604	19184	65807	20290	00087	9744	L	8316	_	Н	_	15154
	AVEFIT	2232	3022	2532	693	1370	281	2270	_	2725	2376	627			1536		3827		5616		3694	_		1928				1758 7			5253
Ш	AV	2	3	2	9	1	2	2.	2	2,	2	9	4.	4	1;	56	38	4]	56	9	36	32	36	15	80	23	54	17	63	33	52
	ITEM	PAPR 1	PAPR 1	PAPR 9	PAPR 9	PAPR 3	PAPR 3	PAPR 5	PAPR 5	PAPR 6	PAPR 6	PAPR 2	PAPR 2	PAPR 7	PAPR 8	PAPR 1	PAPR 1	PAPR 9	PAPR 9	PAPR 3	PAPR 3	PAPR 5	PAPR 5	PAPR 6	PAPR 6	PAPR 2	PAPR 2	PAPR 7	PAPR 7	PAPR 8	PAPR 8
	TRIAL	IA	2A	1A	2A	1A	2A	1A	2A	14	2A	1A	2A	2 A	2A	1A	2A	1A	2A	1A	2A	1A	2A	14	2A	14	2A	IA	2A	14	2A
Suit	Number	SUIT 8	SUIT 8	SUIT 7	SUIT 7	SUIT 6	SUIT 6	SUIT 5	SUIT 5	SUIT 4	SUIT 4	SUIT 3	SUIT 3	SUIT 2	SUIT 1	SUIT 8	SUIT 8	SUIT 7	SUIT 7	SUIT 6	SUIT 6	SUIT 5	SUIT 5	SUIT 4	SUIT 4	SUIT 3	SUIT 3	SUIT 2	SUIT 2	SUIT 1	SUIT 1
	SUBJECT	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	S	5	9	9	7	8	6	6	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16
	MASK	SE-10	SE-10	SE-3	SE-3	SE-1	SE-1	SE-11	SE-11	SE-4	SE4	SE-2	SE-2	SE-12	SE-7	SE-10	SE-10	SE-3	SE-3	SE-1	SE-1	SE-11	SE-11	SE4	SE-4	SE-2	SE-2	SE-12	SE-12	SE-7	SE-7
	TIME	10:40:46	12:00:08	10:40:48	12:00:09	10:40:49	12:00:10	10:40:50	12:00:11	11:22:58	12:42:26	11:23:00	12:42:27	12:42:27	12:42:28	13:27:35	14:41:15	13:27:35	14:41:16	13:27:37	14:41:18	13:27:38	14:41:19	14:09:43	15:23:40	14:09:44	15:23:41	14:09:45	15:23:43	14:09:46	15:23:44
	DATE	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	┪	12/7/02	┪	12/7/02	ᅥ	\dashv	\dashv	\dashv	12/7/02	┥	┪	\dashv	┪	12/7/02	┥	12/7/02	\dashv	\dashv	\dashv	┪	\dashv	-	12/7/02	-+	\dashv	12/7/02

Detailed Data from Part B Testing

		8	4	6	2	9	2	2	7	6	73	∞	6		96	8	∞	7	6	1	0	6	4	22	∞	∞	0
	** †	5705	4234	1379	1162	5476	5075	3815	2387	5859	12573	3608	5849	1616	11636	24208	6438	6792	2409	1081	8650	6869	2414	10627	5158	3738	8120
		6095	2957	40	1588	2529	437	1967	521	4461	390	240	7438	3928	2547	8522	84	124	102	27	10640	5974	113	8374	72	403	945
	- 3 ·	11573	4834	21147	3529	6623	3646	7210	4569	5265	26691	40623	29088	25159	33524	66166	1189	2795	11980	46142	41804	27705	8026	16823	82783	9926	28575
actor)*	3	5186	3876	917	1965	2788	5237	4914	2802	8254	10130	11432	16020	13502	11797	18366	6238	11498	5914	9633	12692	17003	5520	14467	23889	6074	9486
otection 1	7	4172	2961	3474	988	4569	3124	2754	2568	7860	8380	4421	98/9	637	6401	11399	8773	3357	4461	4539	2411	10133	2845	3860	8129	3345	4851
Exercise (Protection Factor)*	7	3003	2867	4600	1432	2560	2953	2256	2395	7290	8954	3562	5095	5741	5464	11618	8999	8655	3612	2631	1241	7359	3001	3106	2908	2655	6690
Exe	100	4586	2868	1691	1427	2661	2850	2405	2191	5322	4042	3370	3522	4552	5554	10923	2765	6348	3644	2962	3396	7994	3526	7246	8580	3096	07/20
		4082	2248	134	1096	2725	1646	2257	1922	4957	3591	628	4651	2037	3301	1958	1001	729	3737	298	2475	4401	2491	5886	10179	442	8001
	AVEFIT	5235	820	239	817	2243	1560	2408	2405	4779	2259	2223	7888	6757	3766	5073	286	616	692	376	4928	8229	707	3113	943	1924	810
	TEM	PAPR 1	PAPR 9	PAPR 9	PAPR 3	PAPR 5	PAPR 5	PAPR 6	PAPR 2	PAPR 2	PAPR 7	PAPR 8	PAPR 1	PAPR 1	PAPR 9	PAPR 9	PAPR 3	PAPR 3	PAPR 5	PAPR 5	PAPR 6	PAPR 6	PAPR 2	PAPR 7	PAPR 7	PAPR 8	o aava
	TRIAL	118	1B	2B	1B	118	2B	1B	13	2B	2B	2B	118	2B	1B	118	2B	1B	ac								
	CONCEPT	SUIT 8	SUIT 7	SUIT 7	SUIT 6	SUIT 5	SUIT 5	SUIT 4	SUIT 3	SUIT 3	SUIT 2	SUIT 1	SUIT 8	SUIT 8	SUIT 7	SUIT 7	SUIT 6	SUIT 6	SUIT 5	SUIT 5	SUIT 4	SUIT 4	SUIT 3	SUIT 2	SUIT 2	SUIT 1	CITIT 1
	SUBJECT	1	2	2	8	4	4	S	9	9	7	∞	6	6	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	15	15	91	1,6
	MASK	SE-10	SE-3	SE-3	SE-1	SE-11	SE-11	SE-4	SE-2	SE-2	SE-12	SE-7	SE-10	SE-10	SE-3	SE-3	SE-1	SE-1	SE-11	SE-11	SE-4	SE-4	SE-2	SE-12	SE-12	SE-7	CE 7
	TIME	11:18:08	11:18:09	12:37:18	11:18:10	11:18:11	12:37:20	12:00:37	12:00:38	13:19:37	13:19:38	13:19:39	14:04:29	15:18:42	14:04:30	15:18:43	14:04:32	15:18:44	14:04:33	15:18:46	14:46:32	16:00:43	14:46:34	14:46:35	16:00:45	14:46:36	16.00.46
	DATE	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	12/7/02	10/11/00

Detailed Data from Part B Testing (Continued)

			S	kercise (Prot	Exercise (Protection Factor)*	*			_
SUBJECT	જ	ĸ	9	9	7	7	8	80	
	4082	4586	3003	4172	5186	11573	2609	5705	
	2248	2868	2867	2961	3876	4834	2957	4234	_
	134	1691	4600	3474	917	21147	40	1379	
	1096	1427	1432	886	1965	3529	1588	1162	
	2725	2661	2560	4569	\$788	6623	2529	5476	
	1646	2850	2953	3124	5237	3646	437	5075	
	2257	2405	2256	2754	4914	7210	1962	3815	
	1922	2191	2395	2568	2802	4569	521	2387	
	4957	5322	7290	7860	8254	5265	4461	5859	
	3591	4042	8954	8380	10130	26691	390	12573	
	628	3370	3562	4421	11432	40623	540	3608	
	4651	3522	5095	9829	16020	29088	7438	5849	
	2037	4552	5741	9637	13502	25159	3928	1616	
	3301	5554	5464	6401	11797	33524	5547	11636	
	1958	10923	11618	11399	18366	66166	8522	24208	
	1001	2765	8999	8773	6238	1189	84	6438	
	729	6348	8655	3357	11498	2795	124	6792	
	3737	3644	3612	4461	5914	11980	102	2409	
	865	2965	1692	4539	9633	46142	27	1081	
	2475	3396	1241	2411	12692	41804	10640	8650	
	4401	7994	6582	10133	17003	27705	5974	6869	
	2491	3526	3001	2845	5520	8026	113	2414	
	5886	7246	3106	098£	14467	16823	8374	10627	
	10179	8580	\$908	8129	23889	82783	72	5158	
	442	3096	2655	3345	6074	9566	403	3738	
	8001	6740	2690	4851	9486	28575	945	8120	
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*During the four-minute exercises, there was a value calculated every two minutes. That is why there are two values for each exercise.

APPENDIX B